

A SECOND SPECIES OF GERSTAECKERIA
(COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE: CRYPTORHYNCHINAE)
FROM MAINLAND SOUTH AMERICA

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ABSTRACT: A second species of *Gerstaeckeria* is reported from mainland South America. *G. obrieni* is described from Viche, Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador, where it was encountered in a sparse agriculture region beneath *Opuntia bella*. The type locality is some 1400 km northwest of the previously known South American range of the genus. Other species are known from Peru, Galapagos Islands and Mexico.

INTRODUCTION

Originally this paper was submitted reporting the following described species as the first record of this genus from mainland South America. After submission, O'Brien's paper (1969) reported *G. peruana* O'Brien from Lachay, Peru. This paper was then withdrawn from press until it was ascertained that the following species differed from *peruana*, and subsequently was shortened so as to not repeat certain information in O'Brien's paper. The type locality of this species extends the known range of the genus *Gerstaeckeria* northwestward on the mainland of South America a distance of about 1400 km nearer the recorded range of the major portion of the genus.

***Gerstaeckeria obrieni*, new species**

Figures 1-4

Holotype: Male, Ecuador, Prov. Esmeraldas, Viche, VI-22-46, ELS (ELSC No. 67). Length 3.5 mm, width 1.8 mm. Black, clothed with sooty black and brown, pale brown and white scales.

Rostrum with carinae present nearly to apical fourth; basal two-thirds sparsely clothed with black and brown scales, the apical third glabrous with an occasional setae emerging from a puncture, moderately coarsely, densely punctated throughout, punctures finer than on prothoracic disc. Antennae reddish brown; club slightly less than 2x as long as wide (3.3:1.8). Head moderately densely clothed with black and brown and an occasional white scale; foveae between eyes very shallow and, along with the punctures, concealed by scales. Prothorax slightly wider than long (2.6:2.0) without evidence of a median carina;

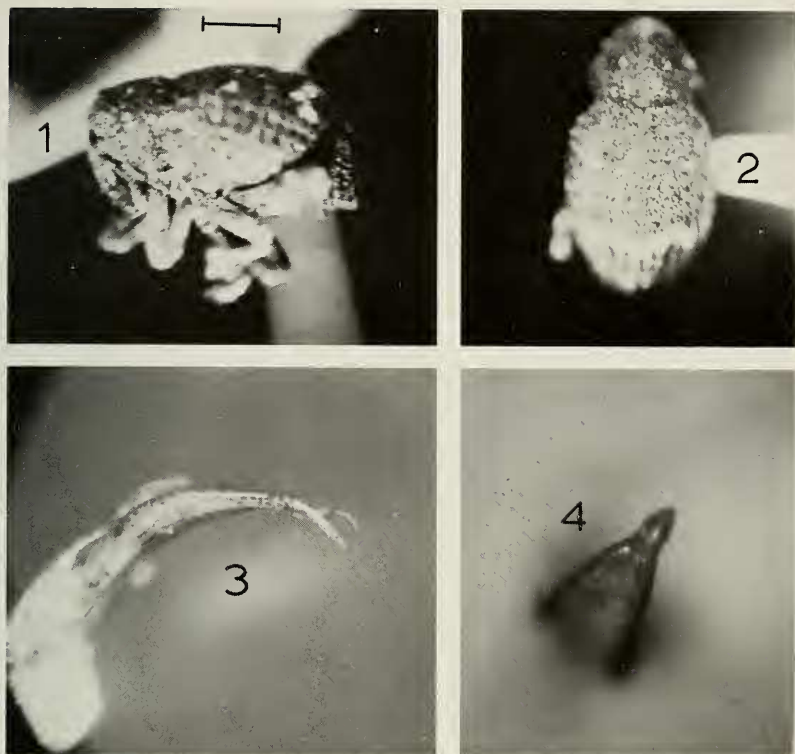


Figure 1. Lateral view of *Gerstaeckeria obrieni*, holotype. Figure 2. Dorsal view of same. Figure 3. Lateral view of aedeagus. Figure 4. Distal portion of aedeagus. Scale: line equals 1.0 mm in Figs. 1-2.

moderately coarsely densely punctured (punctures coarser than on rostrum and head, but much less coarse than those of the striae of elytra); vestiture recumbent with only a scattered semierect scale; clothed with black, brown and white scales with two white spots condensed in patches on the disc. Elytra with sides slightly inflated post-humerally then gradually narrowing to apex; strial punctures large and deep, but not as wide as the intervals; intervals feebly elevated, densely clothed with recumbent black, brown and white scales; white scales for the most part limited to white spots each side suture in basal third and a conspicuous transverse stripe at declivity. Venter clothed with narrower scales; the punctures of thoracic sterna coarse, of abdominal sterna very fine fifth ventrite truncate apically. Legs clothed with predominantly pale (mostly white) scales and setae; femora feebly annulate; third tarsal segment much wider than second.

Allotype. Female, same data as holotype; length 4.5 mm, width 2.3

mm. Differing from the male only in the slightly longer rostrum and slightly more convex first abdominal sternite.

Remarks. This species is extremely variable in form. It varies from narrow-subparallel forms to forms more oval than the holotype. In most the vestiture was recumbent, but in a few, somewhat suberect on elytra. The holotype was selected as most representative of the population examined in color, size, form and vestiture. No difference could be found in the male genitalia or in any other constant morphological feature.

Paratopotypes: 100 selected examples all same data as the holotype. Size range 3.1-5.1 mm, width 1.5-2.7 mm, (mean length 3.6 mm, width 1.9 mm). Paratypes are placed in the following collections: American Museum of Natural History; Dr. Horace Burke, Texas A&M; California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; California State College, Long Beach; Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles; Dr. Charles W. O'Brien, Texas Tech. University, Lubbock; The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; and the United States National Museum.

This species was taken from the base and under debris beneath *Opuntia bella*. The region is rather on the arid side, with sparse farming and considerable grazing. Many specimens were taken from cacti in fence rows or in abandoned fields. None were encountered beneath cow dung or rocks.

This species is very unlike any of the members of the genus known from South America (Peru, O'Brien, 1969) or the Galapagos Islands (Van Dyke 1955). From *G. peruana* O'Brien, it can be readily distinguished by its darker more recumbent vestiture (*peruana* has the vestiture pale brown and erect on the elytra; in *obrieni* it appears mostly black and recumbent). From *galapagoensis* ssp. it can be readily separated by the much larger size of the latter (smallest *galapagoensis* examined 6.0 mm) more densely punctured prothorax, and prostrate, broader scales on elytra.

It is with great pleasure I name this species in honor of Charles W. O'Brien who has worked so diligently on the species of America north of Mexico and who first recorded *Gerstaeckeria* from South America (O'Brien, 1969).

LITERATURE CITED

- O'BRIEN, C. W. 1969. A new species of *Gerstaeckeria* in Peru, first record for South America (Coleoptera, Curculionidae). *Coleopterists' Bull.*, 23: 73-76.
- VAN DYKE, E. C. 1955. The Coleoptera of the Galapagos Islands. *Occ. Papers, Calif. Acad. Sci.*, 22, 181 pp.

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